

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please **AMEND** the claims as shown below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for dyeing fibers or filaments comprising:  
  
a plurality of prewetting troughs;  
  
a plurality of dye baths;  
  
a drying arrangement; and  
  
a supporting system for dyeing fibers or filaments continuously and homogeneously, the supporting system comprising:  
  
a single porous fabric belt,  
  
means to form the single porous fabric belt into a fabric ~~tubular~~ roll ~~from the said~~  
~~porous fabric belt~~ for carrying ~~[[the]]~~ fibers or filaments, and  
  
means to guide said fabric ~~tubular~~ roll along with fibers and filaments through the  
pre-wetting troughs, the dye baths and the drying arrangement ~~for dyeing the said fibers or~~  
~~filaments continuously and homogeneously.~~
- 2 – 5. Cancelled
6. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for dyeing fibers or filaments of claim 1, wherein  
the belt is a synthetic or natural fabric.

7. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the belt is a blended fabric.

8. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the supporting system is inert to dyeing.

9. Cancelled

10. (Currently Amended) A method for dyeing fibers or filaments comprising:  
supporting ~~[[the]]~~ fibers or filaments on a single porous fabric belt and simultaneously forming ~~a fabric tubular roll of the said belt of the supporting system for surrounding the~~ the single porous fabric belt into a porous fabric roll;

carrying the fibers or filaments on the porous fabric roll;

guiding the porous fabric ~~tubular~~ roll ~~comprising~~ carrying the fibers or filaments ~~to pass~~ through pre-wetting troughs for pre-wetting the fibers or filaments, die baths for dyeing the fibers or filaments and a drying arrangement for drying the fibers or filaments ~~wherein said fabric tubular roll being porous enables dyeing of fibers continuously and homogenously; and~~

~~separately drying the~~ separating the dried fibers or filaments ~~by deforming said~~ from the porous fabric ~~tubular~~ roll.

11. Cancelled

12. (Previously Presented) A method for dyeing fibers or filaments as claimed in claim 10, wherein the fibers or filaments for dyeing includes the fibers or filaments selected from the group of cotton, other natural fibers, man made fibers, synthetic fibers, filaments and a combination thereof.

13. (Previously Presented) A method for dyeing fibers or filaments as claimed in claim 10, wherein the fiber is cotton fiber.

14. (Previously Presented) A method for dyeing fibers or filaments as claimed in claim 10, wherein the fibers are carried in either loose form, sliver form, intermediate form or rope form.

15. (Previously Presented) A method for dyeing fibers or filaments as claimed in claim 10, wherein the dye is selected from the group consisting of indigo, vat dye, reactive dye and the like, or a combination thereof.

16. (Previously Presented) A method for dyeing fibers or filaments as claimed in claim 10, wherein the at least one fiber or filament is indigo dyed.

17 – 26. Cancelled